



For immediate release
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Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid Northrop Grumman Employees

JEFFERSON CITY -- The state's Rapid Response Team has been activated to help workers that will be laid off from Northrop Grumman/Interconnect Technologies in Springfield. About 120 workers lost their jobs last week. The company cited increased import competition as the reason for the layoffs.

Northrop produces printed circuit boards. Occupations affected by the layoffs were machine operators, managers, assemblers, laminators, computer graphic technicians, programmers, screeners, engineers, supervisors and clerical staff.

The Rapid Response team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Ozark Workforce Investment Board. The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Northrop Grumman/Interconnect Technologies employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"The Rapid Response team represents an efficient partnership between state and local agencies, dedicated to helping displaced workers find suitable employment again," Driskill said. "We encourage these individuals to take advantage of these free services. The Career Centers provide invaluable assistance through the Rapid Response team in all areas of job searching and placement."

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling, resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education. These services are free of charge to the workers.

Representatives from DWD and the Workforce Investment Board are working with the company to ensure that dislocated workers have access to Career Center services. Meetings will be held with workers and for the entire community to explain how these services can help them find a new job. The meetings will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. July 9 at the Missouri Career Center at 1514 South Glenstone in Springfield.

Employers interested in hiring Northrop Grumman workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team can call DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or Alice Simpson with the Missouri Career Center at 417-841-3338.